## TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

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is a decision day. I hope that we'll make it an affirmative decision day, and this will not be a decision of omission. I want cuts in spending, too, but they aren't going to come in the next eight days, and I don't think the people will be all that enthusiastically responsive if we say, we're going to get to the cuts. I think we ought to tell the people we've been working on the cuts, and these are the cuts we can make today based on all of our...the competing demands which are put upon government for services and benefits. I don't know about you, but I don't believe there are temporary tax hikes, and I, frankly, don't think the people will believe that there's a temporary tax hike. And with all due respect, a sunset (laugh), notwithstanding what we think is the law of nature, can be postponed. It can be revisited, and it can be undone. I think we...and you know what? I don't think there will ever come a time when, after great study by a great task force, we will all arrive at that happy moment where we all agree that this is how we all want to be taxed in a much broader way. It's just not realistic. That isn't how it happens. I have, over the last four or five years, gotten kind of indoctrinated in how this works. And as long as we have suffered the pain to arrive at what might be an acceptable beginning point for breaching the wall and going forward, I think this is the moment, and we ought to pursue it. This doesn't do anything...some people have proposed a cigarette tax increase, and we still have that available in a difficult moment. This proposes only a partial rollback of the income...or partial portion half of the...of the income tax When I look at the services that we've adjusted, for instance, pop, candy, gum, and bottled water is twice that amount if you add, and other prepackaged snack foods, but that was an appropriate accommodation to take into account difficulties of definition. That's how this is shaped. wasn't just throwing darts at the wall. If you look at special trade contractors which has been reduced to 30 million...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: ...by excluding new construction because new construction is an economic driver, that...that number could be...it gives us someplace to go in the future. That number could be \$91 million and these numbers keep changing, by the